

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 450

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

Jan. 21, 1931

59.87, 2 B (81)

A NEW RACE OF *BRACHYGALBA LUGUBRIS* FROM NORTH-EASTERN BRAZIL

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN

While preparing a report on our collections of birds from the Mt. Roraima area, it was discovered that the form of *Brachygalba lugubris* from northeastern Brazil differed markedly from the other races of this species. It appears to lack a name and to avoid describing it in a paper relating to a wholly different area I present its characters herewith.

It gives me a very real pleasure to name this interesting bird in honor of Mrs. Elsie M. B. Naumburg in recognition of her valuable and long-continued studies of Brazilian birds.

Brachygalba lugubris naumburgi, new subspecies

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Resembling *Brachygalba lugubris lugubris* (Swainson) but back greenish black (instead of snuff-brown) with a brownish wash anteriorly; breast and sides greenish black (instead of snuff-brown washed with rusty); the lower tail-coverts and tibiae blacker; the chin averaging whiter, the throat more rufescent.

Resembling *Brachygalba lugubris melanosterna* Selater, but bill shorter and heavier, entirely black (instead of maxilla brown, mandible wholly or largely flesh-color), the throat averaging more, the crown less rufescent.

TYPE.—No. 242,506, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂, Therezina, Piahy, Brazil; May 1, 1926; E. Kaempfer.

RANGE.—Northeastern Brazil in the states of Para, Maranhão and Piahy, and Goyaz.^{1 2}

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Brachygalba lugubris naumburgi.—Brazil: Therezina, Piahy, 2; Parnahyba, Piahy, 1; Rosario, Maranhão, 6.

Brachygalba lugubris melanosterna.—Brazil: Chapada, Matto Grosso, 17; Utiairity, 2.

Brachygalba lugubris lugubris.—Roraima, 12 (essentially topotypical). Venezuela: mouth of Rio Ocama (Orinoco, above Esmeraldas), 4.

Brachygalba lugubris fulviventris.—Colombia: Villavicencio (E. Bogotá region), 3; Buena Vista, above Villavicencio, 2.

¹An immature male recorded from Certeza by Hellmayr who, for lack of material for comparison refers it and five specimens from Maranhão to *B. lugubris lugubris*.

²A specimen recorded by Snethlage from Barão on the east bank of the Tocantins should probably be referred to this race and constitutes the most western record; but a specimen recorded by the same author from Montealegre on the north bank of the Amazon may be referable to true *lugubris*.

Brachygalba lugubris caquetæ.—Colombia: La Morelia, Rio Bodaquera, 5 (inc. type); Florencia, 1. Ecuador: Napo, 2 (trade skins).¹

The form here described has the general coloration of *Brachygalba lugubris melanosterna* of southern central Brazil, from western Minas Geraes to Bolivia, combined with the jet-black bill of *Brachygalba lugubris lugubris* from British Guiana to the Duida region and is thus intermediate between the two.

With *melanosterna* there is no reason to doubt its actual intergradation through contact. With true *lugubris* such contact is prevented by the Amazon. Nevertheless, the two forms, in spite of the well-marked differences separating them, are so closely related that their intergradation would doubtless occur should their ranges adjoin.

Four specimens from the upper Orinoco have the brown areas materially darker than in those from Roraima. This difference seems in part due to season (they were taken in March and are in fresher plumage than the October–December series from Roraima); but whether or not it is also in part racial, it helps to bridge the differences between *lugubris* and *naumburgi*.

Farther west, *fulviventris* of northern Colombia, east of the Andes, differs from *lugubris* only in its somewhat richer brown areas and fulvous-washed abdomen; while in *caquetæ*, of southeastern Colombia and eastern Ecuador, this type of variation is still further developed.

Brachygalba goeringi of northern Venezuela and *Brachygalba salmoni* of the Antioquia region of Colombia and eastern Panama are apparently representatives of this group, and the systematist, who without regard to degree of differentiation, intergradation, or non-intergradation ranks all representative forms as subspecies, would doubtless so regard them. But in the belief that a more discriminating use of nomenclature will better express existing relationships, I should give them both full specific rank.

Brachygalba inornata (Sclater), said to be from "Brazil,"² but entered in the 'Catalogue of the British Museum' as from "Amazonas (?)," is described as "nearly uniform brown, lightest on the top of the head and breast. . . ." It is therefore apparently correctly placed (*loc. cit.*) under *Brachygalba lugubris*.

¹A specimen recorded under "*Brachygalba lugubris*" from Pebas, Peru, in the 'Catalogue of the British Museum' (XIX, p. 172), should presumably be referred to *caquetæ*.

²Jardine's 'Cont. Orn.', 1852, p. 32.

MEASUREMENTS

	Sex	Wing	Tail	Culmen
<i>B. l. naumburgi</i> , Parnahyba, Piauhy	♂	71	50	45
" " " Therezina, "	♂	73	50	46
" " " Rosario, Maranhão	♂	73	51	49
" " " " "	♂	72	51	50
" " " " "	♀	71	51	50
" " " Therezina, "	♀	73	50	48
<i>B. l. melanosterna</i> , Chapada, Matto Grosso	♂	71	51	45
<i>B. l. melanosterna</i> , Chapada, Matto Grosso	♂	70	50	43
<i>B. l. melanosterna</i> , Chapada, Matto Grosso	♂	71	50	45
<i>B. l. melanosterna</i> , Chapada, Matto Grosso	♀	71	51	43
<i>B. l. melanosterna</i> , Chapada, Matto Grosso	♀	70	48	45
<i>B. l. lugubris</i> , Phillip Camp, Roraima	♂	73	52	48
" " " Paulo, "	♂	72	52	47
" " " " "	♀	71	55	48
" " " Orinoco and Ocama, Ven.	♂	71	52	46
" " " " " "	♀	72	49	43
<i>B. l. fulviventris</i> , Buena Vista, Col.	♂	70	49	46
" " " Villavicencio, Col.	♀	72	50	48
" " " " "	♂	69	47	46
<i>B. l. caquetæ</i> , La Morelia, Col.	♂	72	51	44
" " " " "	♂	69	47	45
" " " " "	♀	70	51	45
<i>B. goeringi</i> , El Cuji, Lara, Ven.	♀	68	55	48
<i>B. salmoni</i> , Tapaliza, E. Pan.	♀	72	54	49
" " " " "	♂	72	52	48

